

March/April

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5) A & C ACMA disasters PAC unveiled	4 Northwest Children’s Theater Don’t Let the Pigeon Ride the Bus 12:00-3:00pm	5 OMSI presents Space: A Journey to Our Future March 2nd-May 30th	6 World Forestry Center presents The Chocolate Story February 5th-April 25th	7 Portland Center Stage presents The Chosen at Gerding Theater at the Armory April 4th-May 2nd	8 ACMA on Stage Performance Tentative Date 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm	9 Cirque du Soleil presents KOOZA April 9th-May 2nd	10 Jazz Orchestra at Monterey Jazz Festival. ACMA - Art Is My Voice in the PAC Foyer/Lobby
6) Speak A healthy amount of time? The dimmed limelight Class offerings diversified	11 Poetry Slam at Backspace	12 Passion Pit at the Roseland Theater 8:00pm	13 Jónsi Birgisson at the Roseland Theater 8:00pm	14 ACMA Student Government Community Night in FC Auditorium	15 Jake Owen at the Roseland Theater 8:00pm	16 Filmed By Bike film festival at Clinton Street Theater April 16th-April 18th	17 Classical Orchestra Fundraising Concert on the PAC Main Stage
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Mission statement

Savant is a student-organized, student-written youth zine. We of the Savant staff believe that school journalism belongs to the students and that school news should be reported by the students. We also believe that each art pathway at our school should be represented in the paper as equals to the best of our ability. We, the Savant staff, pledge to work hard, dig deep, and most importantly, to represent our unique, amazing school to its fullest extent.

Letter from the Editor

Hannah Jolley, Managing Editor

“Being on par in terms of price and quality only gets you into the game. Service wins the game.”-Tony Alesandra, an expert an advisor on how to run a successful business.

Upon entering the work world, I came to the realization that no one really cares who I am when I am serving them, they care that I respect who they are. The customer is always right, no matter how grossly rude they are, and this is how most businesses work. This is not to say that the only reason a business treats its customers well is because they want to get into their wallet, though that is certainly true, but rather to point out that a business is not truly good until its customer service surpasses its products.

The student store has reasonable quality products placed at an affordable price, In no way, however, is the service inside the student store customer friendly.

The average experience for the customer at the student store usually consists of one or more of the following: a crowd of friends chatting with the people working inside the shop, a long wait for someone to realize that there is actually a customer waiting to purchase something, a series of “no, we actually don’t have that

right now” responses, and ultimately, a purchase that feels more like dealing with the IRS.

It is not acceptable for something that functions as a business to act in a way that is so unprofessional. The lack of pay, as well as the serving of peers is no excuse for those who work in the student store to lack the basic values of efficiency and good service that are found in successful businesses.

There is no doubt that the demand for food is high, and that students will not stop buying food from the student store simply because it’s the only way they can obtain Famous Amos cookies, and Snapple juices. However, there should be more oversight on the way that the students run the store.

Social Studies teacher Jeff Michels is in charge of the student store, but is rarely there when it is actually running. Students who choose to run the student store do get credit for it on their transcripts. With so little oversight, how are they expected to receive a fair grade for their lack of basic customer service knowledge?

It is not unreasonable to ask the students running the store to exercise a certain amount of professionalism. Even the most lackluster stores know how to treat a person well.

Check Savant out! We’re online!

http://my.hsj.org/or/beaverton/acma

Wanted: Peer dedication

Sasha Nguyen, Staff Reporter

The requirements for a student to get into National Honors Society (NHS) is to have a GPA of 3.5 or above, and model good character, leadership, and a dedication to service. With those requirements, 50 percent of the sophomore class qualify. The step to get into NHS is relatively easy for anyone, which is why a decision was made to change the procedure.

“I think there’s a lot of slackers,” said junior Katrina Henderson, secretary of NHS. “I think there should be dedicated people in NHS.”

In the past, potential NHS members would receive a notice announcing their eligibility, along with an application requiring them to write an essay. In the fall of 2010-2011, the admission process might change. Students that want to get into NHS will have to take the initiative and go to Starling for an application.

“Students must pick up the application themselves,” said counselor Jill Starling. “Make students take that first step.”

Another possible change is an additional requirement. Students will need to have a certain number of hours of community service under their belt before they can be a part of NHS. Although there are some who do not believe that the transition in process will help at all.

“In some ways, for students it will be a hassle. We’ve got classes and we don’t have much free time,” said sophomore Naomi Hanson. “Some people don’t have the time even if they have the dedication.”

All this change is made with the intention of making NHS better than it was before, even if it does not appear that way. To be in this group is an honor, hence the name. Reforming what has been tradition can be difficult to alter, but the hope is that NHS will be improved and therefore the students will benefit as well.



Students who plan to join NHS must raise their level of dedication. *Illustration by Laura Millar*

Rocked out of business

Katy Elliott, Section Editor

The ACMA Rock Night has been cancelled, and the reasons people hear for this depend entirely on whom they ask. Despite some confusion concerning location and time, would-be attendees looked forward to the school’s first rock concert.

Students anticipated the concert to take place January 12, in the Food Court. The event would have been comparable to the prior concert in December, called the Ice Storm Rock Festival held in the TVCTV studio, though more of a formal concert in a space that allowed for larger capacity. ACMA student-led bands like Tomb of the Sun, Suspended Animation, and Autumn Departure would have performed.

“We just wanted to make an event that students would like,” says junior Jon Bell, one of the student planners for the event.

Senior Fred Knudsen, Jon Bell, and principal Michael Johnson each knew all the details. While the students planned the event, Johnson had the responsibility of approving it if it met district requirements.

“A lot of people seemed excited for the event,” says Knudsen. According to Facebook, about a hundred people replied as attending the event, both ACMA students and people from the outside community.

Despite the idea’s popularity, things did not clear through the requisites of student-run events at ACMA. Johnson was surprised last minute by most of the plans for both the iStorm Rock Festival and the ACMA Rock Night. While students’ most frequent complaints include that Johnson did not consider

The ACMA Rock Night curricular, the principal’s main argument is that the planning was too rushed.

“We weren’t ready... The room request form came in very soon before the event,” says Johnson. He recommends that anyone, student or staff member, turn in a room reservation at least two months before the event’s date. Knudsen and Bell turned in their room request form just before the winter break, approximately one month before the ACMA Rock Night.

“I appreciate and support, whenever possible, student-initiated ideas,” Johnson says.

“I fully intend to lead something like [the ACMA Rock Night] next year when I graduate,” Bell says.

With plenty of time to plan ahead, it sounds like he will have Johnson’s support and the school’s first rock concert will finally take place.

Funds Within Reach

In-College Scholarships – The most reliable scholarships come from the colleges that you apply to. This is because you are only competing against other students applying to that college, instead of all students from whatever region the scholarship is open to. Plus, all colleges have automatic scholarships given to applicants based on need or merit. Due dates vary.

FAFSA – Turn in the Federal Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1st. This is not a scholarship, but federal grants and loans available to every college student, depending on income. Because it is need-based, lower-income families will benefit more from the FAFSA. Visit <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

OSAC – The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) sponsors both need-based grants through the Oregon Opportunity Grant and over 400 competitive scholarships for Oregonians only. On this website, students may apply for the grant based on the FAFSA or a common application that may be used for up to 20 out of OSAC’s 400 scholarships of the applicant’s choice. Due dates vary each year. Visit <http://www.getcollegefunds.org>

Cappex - <http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/> Cappex offers thousands of competitive scholarships to the entire public all year round. A student may create a profile to apply for many scholarship and receive notifications from colleges interested in their profiles.

Scholarship organizations make themselves very well known. Try an Internet search or even scan posters at the school to find out more information.

HHA member booted



Helping Hands of ACMA gets together to discuss new volunteer opportunities they have an interest in taking part in. *Photo by Alyssa Guzman*

Maricruz G. Vazquez, Staff Reporter

On the non-district-sponsored student group application, there is a line that asks if there are any “member qualifications” that the students joining must have. In the case of the club Helping Hands of ACMA, the answer to that question is no.

Sophomore Rachel Wohr, who joined HHA, said she was given no rules to follow or any conditions that she had to meet. However, HHA’s founder, junior Kayla Gilmore, says that she tells every new member the rules: to attend the meetings and volunteer events.

“These rules, along with what HHA is, are announced at every meeting where there is a new student joining,” says Gilmore. “If a student has shown that they cannot be relied on for a specific event, they will be taken out of the event, and I myself tell them that as soon as possible.”

Wohr attended the first meeting, coming in late because she had to speak to a teacher. The third meeting, there had been a schedule change and she failed to show up. It was

because of that absence that she was expelled from the group.

“I think it’s a good idea, our school could benefit from a group like that, [but not when it is] kicking everyone out,” said Wohr.

The group’s goal is to brainstorm ideas for volunteer opportunities. Last winter break, the group packed food for the Oregon Food Bank. That is the reason why Wohr joined; she has been doing volunteer work since she began middle school.

The Beaverton school district gives every new club the form IGDA-AR. It states that groups cannot consume alcohol or commit illegal or violent acts. It also talks about the rules for school property usage and special events. Nowhere in the document does it mention how a member of the group will have to behave.

If a problem arises in student clubs, the students have to go to their teacher advisor or the Principal. In the case of HHA, nothing has been done. In the end, the person who runs the group makes the rules, and it is their responsibility to lead it correctly and fairly.

Student Rule

Brandon Fisher
and Kevin McKiernan,
Staff Reporters

Many students have often wondered what it would be like to teach a class for a day. Some have very interesting ideas about the subjects they would like to talk about in a classroom. Here are some of their thoughts:

“The history of graphic novels.”
Elise Mccall, sophomore

“How to be awesome, because I’m an expert!”
Joshua Shore, sophomore

“Gym. I’d just tell everyone to run for a few miles, and then I’d fall asleep.”
Nicole Speaks, junior

“I would teach the art history of manga.”
Mariah Ulrich, freshman

“I’d have to go with gladiator class. Maybe thunderdome. That’s cool.”
Daniel Child, junior

“I would take over the band portable and teach metal [music], so people would start appreciating it more.”
Fred Knudsen, senior

“Cooking. That would be so much fun.”
Imogene Herrnberger, seventh grade

“Hacky-sack 101. Within the class you not only learn basic skills, but learn tricks and theories.”
Athena Lapka, senior

“How to take effective naps.”
Tory Chang, seventh grade

“How to make realistic drawings.”
Lili Alvarez, seventh grade

“An in-depth photoshop class, because in Graphic Design, you don’t really learn the finer points.”
Declan O’Barr, freshman

“The history of music.”
Jordan Goo, freshman

“I would teach the history of medieval warfare.”
William Eagle, eighth grade

“I’d like to teach history because it’s a mystery.”
Rebecca Sheer, eighth grade

“A print screening class because print making is the art form that we don’t do a lot of here and don’t see a lot of.”
Renee Wandell, senior

“Culinary arts, since it’s just as artistic as everything else but not recognized”
Rachel Garcia, senior



Madison Wray waits to voice her opinion about the fate of access during a student government meeting. Wray’s job as the new middle school president is to make sure the middle school students learn about the issues addressed during the student government meetings.

Photo by Maricruz G. Vazquez

Middle school student steps up, takes charge

Maricruz G. Vazquez, Staff Reporter

During a student government meeting one week prior to the presidential election, the government body decided that middle school students needed more direct representation. They chose to add a middle school President and Vice President to represent the younger students. Madison Wray, a seventh grade student, was appointed the new middle school President for next term.

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students running for president gave speeches in front of the whole student government body. Apart from the speech, they had to meet set criteria: decent grades, having a reasonable attendance record and a clean disciplinary record.

“[Wray] has a lot of energy and great ideas. I expect to see original, new ideas from her,” said Jeff Michels, social studies teacher.

Her major role as president consists of making sure all middle school ohanas get the information that their representatives should give them. Wray is planning on having a weekly meeting with them to make sure that they understand the information. If the students are not getting the weekly reports, she will personally deliver the news.

“I’ll make sure that every student’s needs are heard and are brought up to the high school president,” says Wray.

Both middle and high school governments will work together

to get new ideas. Wray is still brainstorming new ideas, but her plans for next term include organizing more middle school events, social events, and fundraisers.

Even though they are getting better representation, the middle school students did not get to vote for their president. Despite that set back they are still happy to have a spokesperson.

“Hopefully this will help give the [middle school students] their own voice, because so far the school is being run by [high school students],” said Emily Bates, a seventh grade student.

Noack says that the only thing the middle school students need to do to be better represented is to be more involved during the meetings. Middle school representatives need to bring more opinions to the meetings if they want something done for the middle school population. As the middle school President, Wray will still have to report to the student government body with her ideas, so they can vote to approve them.

At the same time, Jeff Michels says that this new system will give the younger students more involvement and prepare them for government roles once they are older.

The new system is working, but it is too early to determine if both branches of student government will work together efficiently. Right now they are working on collecting cans and plastic bottles to fundraise money for Haiti. Noack says that this whole thing is trial-and-error and it will become clear whether it works or not, in the future.

Face melting occurrences

Katy Elliott, Staff Reporter

Class was to start in five minutes, and, as usual, music poured from the speakers. This time, however, students and teachers alike turned their heads and listened closer: The song was by Tomb of the Sun, a student metal band.

Tomb of the Sun has had three performances up to date. Their debut took place at senior Fred Knudsen’s home, vocalist and lyricist for the band. They played at his and bass guitarist senior Colby Albertson’s (former student) birthday party. Friends crowded around in Knudsen’s garage and felt the vibrations of the metal music rumble through their bodies. Junior and lead guitarist Jesse White’s fingers danced up and down the neck of his v-shaped guitar providing high pitched notes, contrasting to Albertson’s relaxed bass plucking. Sophomore Ryan Garside thundered on the drums accompanying Knudsen’s surging growls.

The band’s second performance was very similar to the first, taking place in White’s house for his Halloween party. Their last performance stepped outside of the band members’ homes and into the TVCTV studio. It was a concert called the Ice Storm Rock Festival that took place on December 9, 2009. Knudsen’s connections to TVCTV allowed him to organize the event that let his, and other student bands, perform for the school. The other bands that performed were Hayburner and Autumn Departure. They chose to limit the audience to only those personally invited

by band members, however it still drew a large crowd.

No single member plans out what the band’s next song will be. Only the lyrics are written before the band gets together to forge a new song. In jam sessions they each improvise musical phrases and decide as a group what sounds best. Each member has his own influence and talents, making for a very unique sound and intense creative crucibles.

“Occasions of face melting have been reported,” joked Garside.

He’s both the subject, and perpetrator, of the most teasing in Tomb of the Sun.

“We call ourselves progressive metal because of all of the different influences we have, but if you really want to classify us we would be thrash metal with death metal influences,” Knudsen states.

The vocalist leads the band and will soon begin playing rhythm guitar.

Just as each member has his own style, they have favorite Tomb of the Sun songs to play. Albertson’s favorite happens to be “The Gates.” He describes it as being like Hamlet, “only more metal.”

Meanwhile, White’s song of choice is “World Dissolve.” It narrates a story of what happens to the main character when those close to him are hurt and his tunnel vision that ensues. It may not sound like a typical subject for a song, and that is part of the point.

“Don’t be cliché,” White says. “Don’t be a cover band.”

The next show that Tomb of the Sun had planned, the ACMA Rock Night, was cancelled. What the future now holds for the metal band is somewhat uncertain, but Knudsen has ideas.

“It’s pretty much guaranteed that we’ll record music with The Magic Closet,” Knudsen says.

Tomb of the Sun members will pool together their cash to pay The Magic Closet, a Portland based recording studio, by the hour to create a demo album. They hope to sell CD’s either at Knudsen’s Capstone or at Art is My Voice. Knudsen has other ideas, too.

“It’d be cool to play gigs with other bands,” he says.

Having been together for more than six months, performed three times, and already planning ahead to improve their publicity, Tomb of the Sun stands out as a student band. They are about more than sitting around in a garage, as many student bands unfortunately do. Tomb of the Sun continues to give music students someone to look up to.

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President Ridabock: A look back

Jen Johnson, Business Manager

“I didn’t accomplish most of what I intended to,” senior Clara Ridabock admits of her term as student body president. “I made promises to the student body and failed to keep the ones that were closest to my heart, such as getting art out into the community.”

Historically, student government has not had a strong presence within our school or community. For years, student government has promised to line the hallways with lockers and fix the murky water that comes from the drinking fountains, but the execution of these promises is far from attainable, especially for a student organization. However, a more beneficial pursuit, especially for young artists, would be seeking venues to display art outside of our school, and within our community. Ridabock promised to help students get their art out into the community, a plan that was emphasized during her campaign speech, and was likely the reason for her success in the election.

“I take full responsibility for not living up to the faith ACMA students put in me,” Ridabock said. “The other members of student government are all eager and intelligent students. They would have gladly helped me achieve anything if I had simply asked.”

Yet, when asked why she did not live up to her promises, Ridabock would not answer further questions.

Leader on the rise

Shawn Rosenthal, Staff Reporter

Since the student government’s presidential election last month, things have quieted down a bit and disagreements have been put to rest, but that’s not to say that there never were any to begin with. Originally, many people were unsure about how well Dennis Noack, junior, would do as president because he had entered himself into the election race just days before it had occurred. Others were nervous that things were not going to get done, and the government would replicate exactly what has happened over the last year. But when you really look at the path Noack has taken thus far in his term, which has only been a few weeks, you can see that things are looking up.

Noack and his student government staff have already met on multiple occasions to discuss what is turning out to be a very successful bottle drive, with all of the proceeds going to the Haitian relief effort. As you may have heard or seen, there are orange boxes lining the hallways where students are encouraged to drop off recyclable bottles that will help this cause.

Along with the Haiti venture, Noack is working on some projects that may not be seen right away, but will

benefit ACMA in the long run. Projects like alternative sources for fundraising and a student government television series that would broadcast throughout the school monthly or possibly weekly.

Noack is also working closely with junior Bette Amir-Brownstein to develop a student government constitution that will outline the specific power everyone in the government holds and how they can use their skills to benefit the school in the best way possible.

Noack hopes to not only bring his own ideas to fruition, but also to pick up where past Presidents left off, as well as encouraging students to bring him ideas of their own that could be beneficial.

“If everyone is open about what they want to see happen, we can really make a difference,” Noack says.

He is also very appreciative of all the students who voted for him.

“Thanks to everyone who voted for me. I am hard at work trying to improve our school to its full potential,” Noack says.

If students or staff have any comments, questions or concerns about anything involving student government, Noack is always available and would be happy to hear what you have to say.

However, Ridabock’s presidency cannot be painted as a total failure, because there were definite moments of success that outshone the things that had been promised but not achieved.

Ridabock considers the highlight of her presidency to be the Charity Ball, whose entrance fee was not money but cans of food to be donated to feed the hungry.

“Abel Estraviz approached me with the idea and we made it [the dance] happen together. We ended up donating roughly 26 boxes of food to the Oregon Food Bank during their busiest time of year. It was a very rewarding experience, and a lot of fun.”

With the election of junior Dennis Noack as our new student body president, Ridabock offered him advice from her own experience.

“Do not forget why you wanted this,” she said “Remember why you love ACMA. Remember all the things this school has given you and that you want to give back.”

Despite the drawbacks and failures of her own presidency, Ridabock continues to be optimistic about Dennis’s term.

“Don’t hesitate to make change or pursue lofty goals”, she advised “Don’t try to be a one-man government. Learn to delegate and take advantage of the help that is offered to you. Above all, remember why we’re all here in the first place – art. Do your best to educate these young artists and help them branch out. You can make a real difference.”



New President Dennis Noack lounges in the hallway contemplating the changes he plans on making while president.

Photo by Alena Wiedrich

ACMA Disasters

Rory Cannon, Staff Reporter

January 2008

A contractor working on a new Verizon line accidentally punctured ACMA’s sewer line. The entire school’s plumbing failed and students that had to use the restroom on that day were shuttled over to the Beaverton Town set Center on a bus. The portable toilets stayed in the courtyard for two weeks. Seniors tried to see how many of their classmates could fit in one structure. It is rumored people would not use the temporary restrooms and that others preferred the bushes.

“They smelled bad.”
Kenton Wirfsmith, freshman.

January 19, 2009

The ongoing construction of the new performing arts center has impacted the intact school building itself. The most memorable moment is perhaps the flooding of the theatre storage area. Costumes were destroyed and lost, the room designated unusable, many students were devastated. Thankfully, three portables were brought in to house contents of the prior storage space and still reside in the courtyard. They will be used as a replacement until the room is usable again.

Spring 2009

Raccoons were spotted enjoying the warm spring sunshine on the roof of the building, among other things. At first there were only two, but they were soon joined by a third. The pair was first spotted on top of the band portable, though they later migrated to the top of the main building. Eventually another raccoon came along and they all got in a fight. One chased the other off and the other two just left soon after. Students were very excited about this and some even made bets on how long they would stay.

“Dominic [Paul] made two ceramic sculptures modeled after them.”
Daniel Child, junior

February 2010

A middle school student kicked a soccer ball right through the Biology classroom’s window, causing quite the commotion among students, and resulting in a very unhappy janitorial staff.

“I don’t think I’ve ever seen Howard mad before.”
Adam Kraxberger



Image by Laura Millar



Top: Patrons attending **Lights! Camera! Auction!** on Saturday, March 13 browse tables to determine their bids for auction items displayed.
Bottom: Dylan Stephenson warms up on the new grand piano before the audience is seated in the auditorium.

Photos by Annsofie Wikegard (top) & Nick Wilson (bottom)

PAC Unveiled

Students are used to making do with as little money as possible, what with the flimsy plastic beakers in the photo room, the Tom Marsh Gallery made almost entirely of windows, and the tiny food court stage creaking with every actor’s step. With velvety red interior, harmonious acoustics, and plush folding chairs, stepping inside the new Performing Arts Center strikes any student as a surreal and welcome luxury.

The school received a Temporary Occupancy Permit to open the Performing Arts Center for the annual fundraiser, Lights! Camera! Auction! on Saturday, March 13. Without a doubt, the school’s annual fundraiser benefited from being held at the school.

“It is close by and it is ours,” says Jeff Moorhead (President of the PTO, which runs the annual auction). “The latter being the case, it was also much less expensive that using an outside venue.”

Jeanne Paul, who was in charge of donations and procurement, estimates the gross funds raised this year to be around \$30,000 and the net funds to be around \$23,000. The PTO is still calculating the profits, which means that these numbers are not final. Paul and Moorhead know, however, that \$4,250 was raised for the scholarship fund. The money will be used to help low-income students pay class fees, participate in school activities like field trips, and similar situations.

Adults and students poured through aisles of catered food and items donated to the silent auction in the Center’s foyer gallery.

Light flooded in the windows, but they left ample wall space for hanging art. Silver hooks to hang wires upon allowed for paintings to be displayed in front of the windows, as well. Each grade helped build, paint, and decorate their own piece of furniture to sell at the auction. “This year it was a big boost to have each of the grades contribute and be represented,” says Paul, regarding the student-customized art furniture for sale. “Considering the PAC [Performing Arts Center] wasn’t really complete I think it was quite high quality,” Moorhead says. “... folks had a pretty positive attitude coming away from it.” The inside of the theatre felt even more like what one might call “the real thing.” The Classical Orchestra, the opening scene cast for “Celebration,” and Dance West members each performed teaser pieces for their spring acts before the live auction began. Students have good reason to be excited about their new Performing Arts Center. Each performing arts focus will benefit from the theatre with its superior stage and acoustics. In addition, the visual arts will also receive a treat in the form of the foyer gallery, which is a radical improvement from the Tom Marsh. Thanks to the new Performing Arts Center, the school’s focuses can take a breathe of fresh air and continue growing in presentation. The auction kick-started this new age by raising funds for the PTO, which will distribute the money to student activities and projects.

A healthy amount of time

Hannah Jolley, Managing Editor

Despite attending an option school, there are some classes that students simply have to take. All the core classes are included in this category, as well as the imposing health class. However, sophomores have felt shortchanged in their health education. This is due to a very simple, but problematic constraint: time. The Beaverton School District’s adaptation of health curriculum for high school sophomores is ineffective due to time shortage.

Time spent in the classroom, or seat time, for sophomores’ health class in 2010 is a whole 13 hours and 20 minutes, which pales in comparison to the hours spent by other students at their home high school. The normal health class for Southridge High School freshman and sophomores is a full

trimester, for which they are awarded a half credit. Within two weeks, students at Southridge will have had more seat time in health than ACMA sophomores, and by the end of the trimester they will have had seventy-seven hours. Last year, ACMA sophomores were given a half credit for health, which was a separate class. This was problematic for sophomores since some had difficulties fitting all their electives they require for their endorsements, core classes, and then health.

The problem was solved by what seemed like an afterthought: it was candidly placed during Ohana. This forty-minute period is primarily used as a homeroom where students can seek guidance and develop learning strategies as well as life-planning skills.

These guidelines around Ohana causes the time that could be spent on teaching

health to students to be cut down to a minimal amount. With twenty Ohana periods dedicated to health, sophomores cannot possibly complete the health learning targets for high school students.

Consequently, the curriculum, which is built for trimester and semester high schools, is forced to adapt and shorten. Instead of being able to include all the learning targets, counselors Jill Starling, Kathy Herrick and Angie Simmons are forced to cut out bits and pieces of an already condensed education. Some of these targets include birth control methods; the media’s effect on youth; environmental health; as well as stress, anger, and conflict management.

Due to time and the limited curriculum, students are not getting a full education on how to take care of themselves, which is one of the most

important thing a student can learn on the cusp of being an independent person.

“(It doesn’t matter) if you met the math benchmark (if you) die of a heart attack at thirty-five,” says Jill Starling.

Starling, as well as the other health teachers expressed a concern towards the amount of time they were given to teach students the importance of living a healthy life. Instead of teaching facts, the curriculum the Beaverton School District has adopted focuses on an education that teaches healthy habits. The more comprehensive tactic, however, does take more time.

Life-long changes are not something students can learn once a week, or even every other day. The changes made cannot be effective until health class changes from an afterthought to a real priority for students.

The dimmed limelight

Jen Johnson, Staff Reporter

The meaning behind an old adage can be shockingly insightful and revealing. In the case of an ACMA student, the phrase “the grass is always greener on the other side” is more than slightly applicable, especially when it comes to our art focuses. A visual artist will complain about the lack of a venue to display his or her art, and will wish that it received the kind of attention that a performing art, like dance, has. There is constant chatter among the student body about which focus gets the proverbial “short end of the stick,” and how slanted the attentions of the school are toward certain arts.

“The school has a hierarchy,” says freshman Carly Schick, who plans to get a theatre endorsement. “Dance’s needs come before everyone else’s, then comes band, visual arts and then theatre. But computer art is definitely the bottom.”

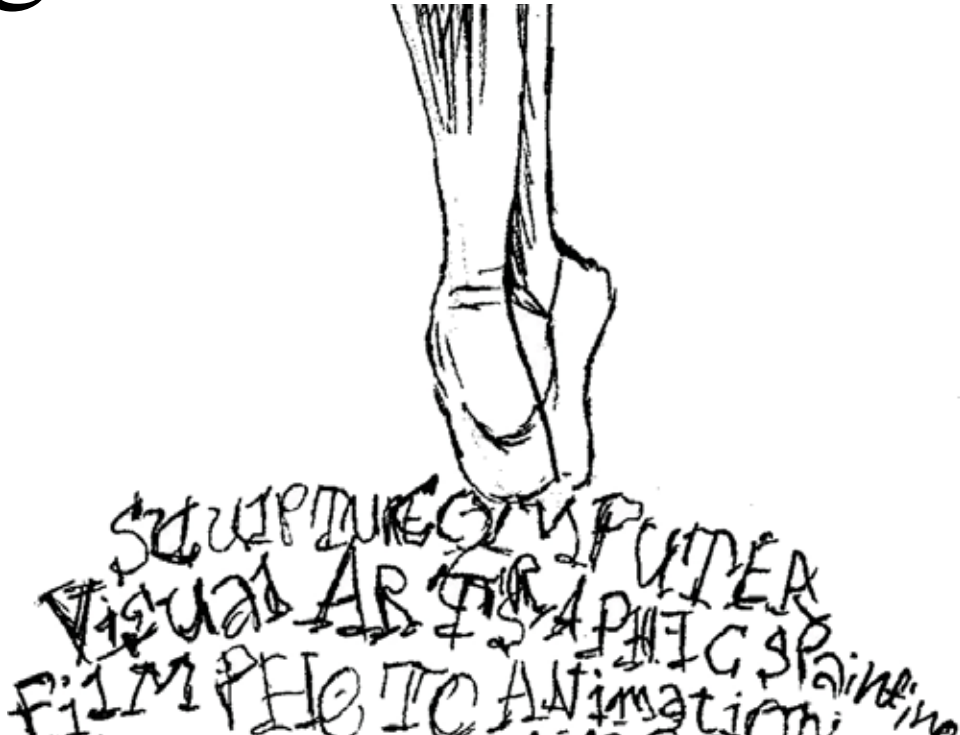
While the attentions of the student body may not lean toward writing or computer arts, there is no evidence that funds are

allocated in favor of certain focuses or departments. Andi Smith, ACMA’s bookkeeper, claimed that the school’s budget “is fairly allocated according to program needs,” and that “not a lot of programs were able to do 100 percent of what they wanted,” suggesting that there is no focus that receives preferential treatment as far as money goes.

The constant complaints about a lack of attention paid to certain focuses may just be a result of wishful thinking on the part of the students. They would always like to see greater appreciation for their art form.

“We have a lot of emphasis placed on our program already,” says Heidi Christiansen, a junior, who plays bass in Jazz Orchestra, “but more publicity would be well received.”

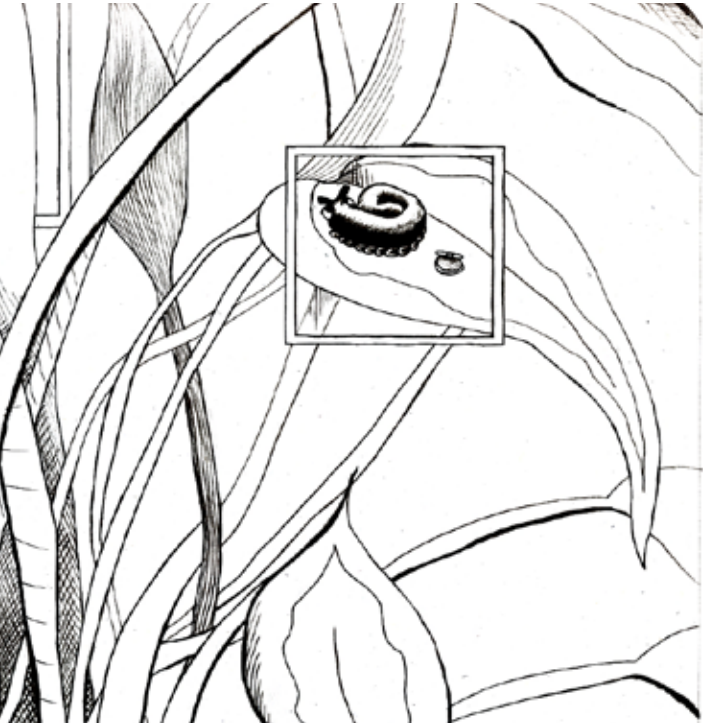
ACMA’s pathway dissatisfaction may be a case of the grass always appearing greener for other focuses, but it could also be a simple result of artistic pride. Students will always feel as though their art deserves a greater portion of the limelight.



A ballerina dances gracefully atop all the other focuses, getting the most attention and money from the school.

Image by Laura Millar

Class offerings



These two panels push the boundaries in Comic Art class.

Image by Serenil Sierra

Sasha Nguyen, Section Editor

Last year we added Comic Art, Urban Design is our school’s newest class offering. Next year students have the option of new English classes: Communication; a speech and debate class, Film and Literature; using film to explore literature, Drama and Literature; using plays to explore literature, and Shakespeare; studying the Shakespearian plays not normally taught in high school. Although only two of these four classes will be offered in a year. In 2011-2012, new science classes will be added. The diversity in classes offered is up to the students who want the class and the number of teachers qualified and available to teach. It is the students who take these classes, and as such, they should take more initiative to what classes are offered to them.

Around the time that classes are being planned, teachers can request the class they want to teach and suggest new courses, although not all requests will be fulfilled. If students want a specific type of class then they should talk with the teachers associated with the subject since it is up to them to

present a new course offering to the administration.

“We try to look at new courses that would be complimentary to pathways,” said counselor Jill Starling. “We also look at whether teachers have interest in teaching those classes.”

Classes are also added when there is an academic or artistic need for it. Urban Design counts as social studies credit. Students who may have struggled with their other social studies classes find it rather helpful. The same applies to the new English classes. The required Literature & Composition 11/AP English Literature class for juniors and seniors is difficult, but there has been no alternative. Students have had no choice but to take that class. If they want their opinion to count, they must speak up.

An average person’s schooling lasts from kindergarten to 12th grade, and for those years, classes are free. Therefore, students need to voice their opinions. If there is a class that a student wants to take before graduation arrives, they should speak up. School may be a requirement, but it can still be enjoyed and constructed to meet a student’s interests and needs.

Pokemon Gold and Silver

Brandon Fisher, Staff Reporter

The classic games Pokémon Gold and Silver versions are arguably the best in the series. With these standards, the bar has been raised high for the new remakes of the two games: Heart Gold and Soul Silver. The developers at Game Freak have taken steps in the form of innovative new features to ensure that the experience of playing these games will be memorable for veterans and an exciting first step for new players.

Some features in the new games are entirely new to the worlds of Gold and Silver, but most are returning features that have been enhanced. One such new feature is an accessory called the Pokéwalker. This connects to your Nintendo DS system so that you may take a pokémon with you, so to speak. As you walk with it, the held pokémon will gain experience points, as well as grow friendlier toward you. This is a take on the Pokemon Pikachu 2 GS, a virtual Pikachu released during the boom of virtual pets. Both the PP2GS and the Pokéwalker allow

you to earn “watts,” a currency used in the games. With several amazing enhancements, the Heart Gold and Soul Silver versions of the Pokémon games definitely have the potential to receive good reception in North American, as they already have in Japan. They will be released on March 14. This should be an appealing return to a world full of wonder for life-long fans, as well as a great place to start out for those new to the world of Pokémon.

Blazers

Kevin Mckiernan
and Shawn Rosenthal, Staff Reporters

February 1970

The contract was signed in Los Angeles, CA for the Trailblazers to start the following season in Portland.

June 1974

Blazers draft player Bill Walton, who is arguably tied for the greatest Blazer of all time, with the #1 pick.

May 1977

Blazers finish the season with a record of 49 wins and 33 losses earning themselves a Western Conference title.

June 1983

Blazers draft Clyde “The Glide” Drexler, the other “greatest Blazer of all time,” with the 14th pick of the draft.

June 1984

With the 2nd pick of the draft, they choose Sam Bowie over Michael Jordan, who went on to be arguably the greatest basketball player of all time.

Summer of 1988

Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, purchases the team. An arrangement which continues to this day.

June 1990

The Blazers make their return to the NBA Finals after 13 years.

June 1992

The Blazers make their 3rd and last appearance to date to the NBA Finals, going up against Michael Jordan and his Chicago Bulls.

April 2003

The Blazers make the playoffs for the last time in six years, but lose to the Dallas Mavericks.

June 2006

The Blazers draft Randy Foye with the seventh draft pick, but trade him that same day to the Minnesota Timberwolves for Brandon Roy.

June 2007

Blazers receive the #1 choice in the 2007 NBA draft, and select Greg Oden, seven foot tall player from Ohio State University. He then endured an injury before his rookie season, which prevented him from playing the entire year

October 2009

The Blazers acquire veteran NBA players Andre Miller and Juwan Howard for the new season.



Mia Wasikowska stars in “Alice in Wonderland.” (Courtesy Disney Enterprises, Inc./MCT)
Photo by Leah Gallo

Alice in Wonderland

Brandon Fisher, Staff Reporter

In Tim Burton’s adaptation of the story inspired by Lewis Carroll’s famous works, Alice goes down the rabbit hole and once again into the fantasyland of her childhood.

After wandering away from a dinner party to follow a white rabbit in a waistcoat, a nineteen-year-old Alice (Mia Wasikowska) finds herself tumbling down the rabbit-hole for the first time since she was six.

Once there, she finds herself reunited with her old friends, while befriendng some new ones. Apparently, Alice does not remember ever being in Wonderland, and does not even remember characters like the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp), the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter), or the Cheshire Cat (Stephen Fry), who are all truly excellent in their roles.

Tim Burton is somewhat able to bring his signature creepy style to the classic story. Burton’s role as director is clear in the visuals and in the characters, but one

does not receive the feel of Tim Burton from the story as well. This is a fantastic film worthy of seeing in theaters, but is not recommended for especially young audiences, due to some scary moments and a battle scene at the end.

Director: Tim Burton
MPAA Rating: PG
Genre: Sci-Fi/ Fantasy/ Family
Running Time: 1 hr. 49 min.
Stars: 4/5

Mind Chaos

Amanda Shearon, Guest Writer

Hockey’s debut album, Mind Chaos, marked by their New-Wave-Indie-Rock flavored tunes, is rousing everyon to their feet. Moving on Ben Grubin’s raspy vocals, handclaps, swaggering guitar chords and lithe synths, “Too Fake” and “Song Away” could easily be the Killers hanging with MGMT down at Studio 54. Although they often veer off into cliché choruses, “Work” reveals a smoky disco side while “Preacher” travels from a gospel-fused ballad to blazing rock.

Produced by Jerry Harrison at Capital Records, Portland, Oregon’s Hockey is an unlikely hybrid of ‘80s Brit-pop rhythms and soulful American Rock—and this album won’t disappoint!

Artist: Hockey
Album: Mind Chaos
Date Release: October 6, 2009
Record Label: Capitol Records

Genre: New Wave Indie Rock
Stars: 4/5
Website: http://www.hockeyband.com

Lovesick Electric

Devonne R. Johnson, Section Editor

An overall good song with a misleading first verse opens Hot Chelle Rae’s debut, Lovesick Electric. Highly suggestive pop songs I Like to Dance and Bushes make this album moderately impressive, and their sultry, dance-infused rhythms are contagiously catchy. However, the band’s attempts at love songs, Bleed and The Distance, are initially cringe worthy. Overly emotional lyrics do little to balance out the minimalistic music backing them. Thankfully, lead singer R.K. Follese’s vocals remain believably honest, therefore making even Hot Chelle Rae’s worst songs tolerable.

Hot Chelle Rae cites some iconic music stars as their influences, such as Queen, The Beatles, and Michael Jackson, but their music runs more along the lines of a mix between Cobra Starship and Every Avenue. The winning songs on this album are certainly worth a listen, and even the less intriguing ones begin to grow on you. Lovesick Electric was worth its \$9.99 price tag.

Artist: Hot Chelle Rae
Date Released: October 27, 2009
Producers: Eric Valentine, Butch Walker

Genre: Pop/Alternative
Stars: 4/5
Website: http://www.hotchellerae.com/